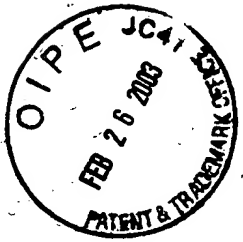


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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. H4165/PCT/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Josef Otto RETTENMAIER et al.)
Serial No.: 09/380,739)
Filed: December 15, 1999)
For: LAUNDRY DETERGENT COMPACT)
WHICH DISINTEGRATES IN LIQUIDS)

Group Art Unit: 1751
Examiner: Lorna M. Douyon

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p). Copies of the listed documents are attached. English abstracts of some of the non-English documents are also provided.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art"

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under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

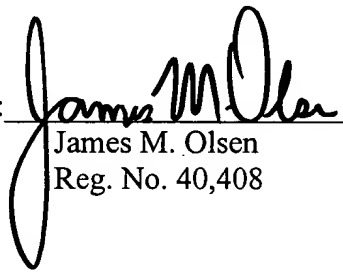
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

Date: February 21, 2003

By: _____


James M. Olsen
Reg. No. 40,408